

Subject: [TRAV-NET] Constant & Co Evic
by farmer who rents council land?

Date: Fri, 23 Apr 2004 10:29:34 +0100

From: Anna Hinton <fft@COMMUNITYBASE

Reply-To: 'Traveller-Net' Network <TRAVELLER

Organization: Friends, Families and Travellers

To: TRAVELLER-NET@JISCMAIL.AC.UK

Hi all,

Ridge Farm, a small derelict piece of Brighton and Hove Council's delapidated downland estate, is due to be evicted this morning at 11.30am by Constant and Co bailiffs with police attendance. The eviction has been requested by the farmer, who rents the land from the council, although he has let the land and outbuildings fall into severe disrepair over many years and clearly has no intention of using it for anything productive. New Travellers, totalling 6 people in total, have been endeavouring to turn the land into a small eco-friendly sustainable site.

Although the council seems to have taken a neutral position, many councillors and council officers seem to think the site is a good idea and have encouraged the Travellers to try and get the site tolerated long term. We would have liked to have seen a compulsory takeover of the farmer's tenancy by the council, or something along these lines, but the laissez faire approach seems to negate this possibility. The council's name is on the eviction notice as they are the landowner, not the farmer. The farmer apparently has powers to instruct bailiffs under an agricultural tenancy act.

What I am interested to know is - is there any obligation for the council to carry out welfare checks before they OK an eviction via Constant and Co? One of the Travellers is pregnant for example. Or is it treated like a private land eviction from start to finish?

Rapid responses appreciated by phone or email.

Kind regards,

Anna Hinton
Administrator

Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.

Checked by AVG anti-virus system (<http://www.grisoft.com>).

Version: 6.0.659 / Virus Database: 423 - Release Date: 18/04/04

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